

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are subject to a species election requirement. Claim 2-11 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue any canceled subject matter in other applications.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a generic claim that encompasses all of the groups of species set forth by the Examiner in the Election Requirement of June 16, 2003. Claims 12-19 have been amended to depend from independent Claim 1.

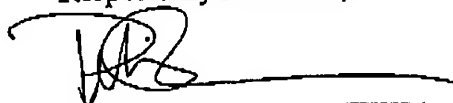
THE SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner asserts that restriction to one of the ten inventions, which are set forth in the June 16, 2003 Election Requirement, is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the application contains claims directed to ten patently distinct species.

Applicant respectfully traverses and, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, indicates a provisional election of one invention for prosecution, hereby electing Group I, *i.e.*, Claims 1 and 2-19 as amended which are readable on Groups I-X. The restriction requirement did not indicate which of the original claims (*i.e.*, Claims 1-19) were allegedly readable upon each of Groups I-X, which does not appear to clearly identify each of the disclosed species to which claims are restricted. *See* M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a). Moreover, a search and examination of the entire scope of the originally filed claims, which are intimately related, would not necessarily impose a serious burden on the Examiner. *See* M.P.E.P. § 803. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims, as amended, are readable on all of the groups (*i.e.*, Groups I-X).

Accordingly, in light of the claim amendments and remarks herein, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for a species election. Applicant hereby preserves the right of petition from requirement for restriction under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

Respectfully submitted,



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